



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/567,280	05/20/2008	Leon Willem Greeff	LP-02-026	9778

7590  
Ralph C. Francis  
Francis Law Group  
1942 Embarcadero  
Oakland, CA 94606

02/02/2011

EXAMINER
----------

NGUYEN, CHI Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3635

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

02/02/2011

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/567,280	<b>Applicant(s)</b> GREEFF ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> CHI NGUYEN	<b>Art Unit</b> 3635	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This non-final Office action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on 9/29/2010.

#### ***Status of Claims***

Claims 1-2 and 4-33 are pending and examined.

Claim 3 has been cancelled.

Upon further consideration; the previously stated allowable subject matters are being withdrawn and with new rejections are following:

#### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: there is a typographical error for "a central apertures"; it should be read --a central aperture--.

Appropriate correction is required.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 2 and 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In regarding claim 2; a citation "internally pressed circular sections" in line 3 is confusing and indefinite because it's unclear that if the limitation is the same as claim 1; line 6? If they are the same limitation then it should be read --said internally pressed circular sections--. Clarification is required.

Art Unit: 3635

In regarding claim 4; a citation "said receival portion" in line 3 does not have antecedent basic for this limitation because the claim 4 is depending upon the independent claim 1 and "a receival portion" has not cited in neither claim 1 nor claim 4. Claims 5-9 depending upon the rejected claim 4 are also rejected.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat. No. Re. 31,234 to Jureit et al.

5. Claim 1: Jureit et al. disclose a construction member 12 in Figs. 1-10, said construction member comprising: a longitudinal body 24 having at least a base (no labeled but wherein 56 points to in Fig. 3) and two upright side walls 30/30 (Fig. 10), wherein each of said upright side walls 30/30 extends longitudinally beyond said base to thereby form opposed flange portions 42 at longitudinal ends thereof, said opposed flange portions 42 including opposed and co-axially aligned, internally pressed circular sections 46b; wherein each flange portions 42 extends beyond said base in a substantially semicircular arrangement 83 (Fig. 3); whereby the radial centers of each semicircular flange further define the radial centers of said internally pressed circular sections (Fig. 6) associated therewith.

Art Unit: 3635

6. Claim 2: wherein said construction member 10 further includes at least one receival portion (at 24 in Fig. 1) along its length, said at least one receival portion having opposed and co-axially aligned, internally pressed circular sections associated with said upright side walls, said side wall internally pressed circular sections 46b being configured to receive and rotatably engage said internally pressed sections of said opposed flange portions of a further construction member (Fig. 1).

7. Claim 4: as best understood, wherein said internally pressed circular sections 46b of said opposed flange portions 42 are correspondingly shaped with said internally pressed sections of said receival portion (where 27 points to in Fig. 1), such that when oppose flange portions 42 of a first construction member 24 engage with those of the receival portion of a second construction member 26, said first construction member is rotatable by way of engagement of corresponding internally pressed circular sections.

8. Claim 5: wherein each of said internally pressed sections 46b further includes a central aperture 54 whereby when opposed flange portions of said first construction member engage with those of said receival portion of said second construction member, said apertures of each internally pressed sections become co-axially aligned.

9. Claim 6: wherein said first 24 and second 26 construction members are further lockable at a predetermined angle with respect to one another (Fig. 1).

10. Claim 7: wherein said first and second construction members 24/26 are lockable at a predetermined angle with respect to one another using a bolt (see abstract) adapted to extend through co-axially aligned apertures of said internally pressed sections.

Art Unit: 3635

11. Claim 8: wherein each of said opposed flange portions 42 of at least said first construction member includes a ferrule 64 (Fig. 10) positioned transversely therebetween, said ferrule being configured to prevent internal deflection of said flange portions when said bolt is tightened.

12. Claim 9: wherein said ferrule 64 is cylindrical and is of a diameter slightly greater than that of said internally pressed sections 46b of opposed flange portions (Fig. 10).

13. Claim 15: wherein said base includes a longitudinal indent (no labeled but near by 24 (Fig. 1).

14. Claim 16: Jureit et al. disclose a connection for roof truss members, said connection comprising: a first member 24 including two parallel and spaced apart longitudinal surfaces having a pair of inwardly pressed and transversely aligned circular sections 46 associated with an end thereof; and a second member 26 including two parallel and spaced apart longitudinal surfaces having a pair of inwardly pressed and transversely aligned circular sections 48 at a predetermined position along the length of said second member 26, said second member further having two transversely opposed, upper gripping edges 42b (Fig. 8) above said pair of inwardly pressed circular sections 48; said first and second members 24/26 adapted to be connected by way of engagement of said first member circular sections 46/48 within said second member circular sections allowing said first and second members 24/26 to rotate relative to one another, said first member further being lockable at a predetermined angle relative to said second member by applying an inward force (e.g. using hammer) on said engaging

Art Unit: 3635

circular portions 46/48, said inward force further causing said upper gripping edges to grip the corresponding longitudinal surfaces of said first member.

15. Claim 17: wherein each of said first and second member circular sections 46/48 include a central aperture 54, whereby when two pairs of said circular sections engage one another, said central apertures are coaxially aligned (Fig. 2).

16. Claim 18: wherein said second member is rotatable (col. 2; line 13) relative to said first member about a shaft adapted to extend through said coaxial apertures 54.

17. Claim 19: wherein said shaft is in the form of a bolt (see Abstract), which provides said inward force when turned in a tightening direction.

18. Claim 20: wherein said connection includes means 64 to maintain said spaced apart relationship between said parallel surfaces of said first member despite tightening of said bolt.

19. Claim 21: wherein said first member 14 comprises a chord member of the roof truss.

20. Claim 22: wherein said second member 26 comprises a stiffening member of the roof truss.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

21. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3635

22. Claims 23-26 and 29-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat. No. Re. 31,234 to Jureit et al.

23. Claim 23: Jureit et al disclose a roof truss, comprising: at least one longitudinal stiffening member 26 having a base (no labeled but wherein 58 points to in Fig. 3) , first and second ends (Fig. 1 or 2), two parallel and spaced apart side walls 32/32, and parallel and spaced apart end flanges 44 disposed on at least said first end of said stiffening member 26, said side walls extending a predetermined distance longitudinally beyond said base to thereby form parallel and spaced apart end flanges 44; and at least one longitudinal chord member 24 having a base 56, two parallel and spaced apart side walls 30/30, and at least one receiving section 42, whereby said at least one receiving section 42 is adapted to receive said end flanges 44 of said stiffening member 26 (Fig. 2), said end flanges 44 and said receiving sections 42 including inwardly pressed circular sections 46b configured such that said end flanges and receiving sections rotatably engage. Jureit et al. disclose the basic structures for the roof truss as stated above but do not disclose expressly the roof truss is a metal roof truss. However, this feature would have been a matter of obvious design choice to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a different material such as metal, etc. for strongly supporting a roof. Further, applicant has not disclosed the criticality of this feature.

24. Claim 24: wherein said end flanges 44 extend beyond said base in a substantially semicircular arrangement (at 44a) and include inwardly pressed circular



Art Unit: 3635

sections (Fig. 6), whereby the radial centers of each said flange also define the radial centers of said inwardly pressed circular sections.

25. Claim 25: wherein said metal roof truss includes a lower chord member 14 adapted to lie substantially flat and parallel to the ground and two upper chord members 16/20 connected at an apex above said lower chord member and to opposed ends of said lower chord member in a triangular arrangement (Fig. 1).

26. Claim 26: wherein said metal roof truss includes a web 18 of stiffening members that support said upper and lower chord members 14/16/20.

27. Claim 29: wherein each said inwardly pressed circular section 46 of said chord and said stiffening members 24/26 includes an aperture 54 at its center, whereby when engaged, said internally pressed sections 46 of said chord and said stiffening member become coaxially aligned (Fig. 2).

28. Claim 30: wherein said inwardly pressed sections 46 include co-axially aligned apertures 54 and said stiffening member 26 is lockable to said chord member 24 using a bolt (see Abstract) adapted to extend through said co-axially aligned apertures.

29. Claim 31: including a cylindrical ferrule 64 locked between said semicircular flanges and said side walls and wherein when said bolt is tightened, said semicircular flanges and side walls are prevented from internally deflecting by said cylindrical ferrule.

30. Claim 32: wherein just prior to said bolt being tightened, the free end of said stiffening member is able to rotate about said bolt.

Art Unit: 3635

31. Claim 33: wherein when said bolt is tightened, said internally extending splayed edge bites (Figs. 2-3) into said side walls of said stiffening member thereby acting as a secondary locking means.

32. Claims 10-14 and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat. No. Re. 31,234 to Jureit et al. in of US Pat. No. 5,865,008 to Larson.

33. Claims 10, 11, 27 and 28: Jureit et al. disclose the basic structures for the roof truss as stated but do not disclose expressly wherein at least a longitudinal portion of said construction member further includes two upper edges extending inwards from said upright side walls to thereby form a longitudinal channel therebetween. Larson discloses a metal truss 10 (Fig. 1). The roof truss 10 comprises a base 11, two side walls 12, the side walls 12 are extending upwardly at 15, outwardly at 14 and then inwardly at 17 to form a channel therebetween. In view of Larson, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute Jureit for a metal truss which including inwardly extending upper edges in order to engage, hold and support to another member.

34. Claim 12: wherein when a first construction member is received within said receival portion of a second construction member, and a compressive force (using a hammer) is applied to said upright side walls of said receival portion, said splayed upper edges of said second construction member bite into said upright side walls of said first construction member and thereby provide a secondary locking means.

Art Unit: 3635

35. Claim 13: wherein said splayed upper edges extend substantially upwardly and outwardly and then inwardly from said upright side walls.

36. Claim 14: wherein said construction member 12 does not include upper edges above and adjacent said at least one receival portion (Figs. 1-2), to thereby allow for the opposed flange portions of a further construction member to be received therethrough.

37. Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat. No. Re. 31,234 to Jureit et al. in view of US Pat. No. 4,782,641 to Manenti et al.

38. Claim 34: Jureit et al. disclose the basic structures for the roof members as stated and further include an upper apex (Fig. 11), but do not disclose wherein an apex plate joins said stiffening member and said chord member at said roof truss upper apex. Manenti et al. disclose roof structures that including an apex with plate joins 35 (Fig. 4). In view of Manenti et al. it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Jureit et al. a plate for joining upper chord members together in order to securely fastened together and facilitate a building assembly.

### ***Response to Arguments***

39. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2 and 4-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

40. Since the previously stated allowable subject matters have been withdrawn thus this Office action is made non-final.

***Conclusion***

41. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure (US Pat. Nos. 3,785,108; 4,782,641 and 3,760,550).

***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Chi Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272- 6847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 am-4:00 pm. If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis can be reached at (571) 272-6928. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pairdirect.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217-9197.

/Eileen Lillis/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner,  
Art Unit 3635

/C. N./

Examiner, Art Unit 3635